

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 have been amended and new claims 8-14 have been added herewith.

Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.102(a) as being anticipated by Fujisawa et al. (EP 0888715).

The rejection of claims 1-5 is overcome by the amendments to claims 1-5, which clarify the claimed composition by positively reciting the pesticide. The rejection of claims 6-7 is respectfully traversed, and claim 6 has been amended to be in independent form.

The Examiner stated that Fujisawa teaches a plant growth regulator comprising jasmonic acid and pesticide such as herbicides and solid or liquid carriers, and teaches a method of spraying the regulator composition onto plant foliage.

However, Applicants note that the Fujisawa et al. discloses a plant growth regulator comprising (i) gibberellin and a jasmonic ester of formula (1) in the reference (page 2, lines 40-50). The gibberellin that is used in Fujisawa is stated to be a plant growth regulator (page 1, line 10), and gibberellin apparently does not function as a pesticide. Therefore, Fujisawa et al. does not, in fact, disclose a composition having a pesticide and the jasmonic acid, and therefore does not anticipate amended claims 1-5.

In traversing the rejection of claims 6 and 7, Applicants note that claim 6 requires that the enhancer be applied with a pesticide, and therefore the claims are not anticipated by Fujisawa et al.

New claim 8 depends from claim 6 and is therefore also not anticipated.

The Examiner cites column 5, line 44, which discloses that Fujisawa's plant growth regulator may be incorporated with a bacteriocide or herbicide. This general disclosure in Fujisawa of other possible components does not anticipate the pending claims, although it may be considered to provide a suggestion for incorporating a pesticide. In response, Applicants assert that the pending claims are non-obvious on the basis of the unexpected results of the combinations recited in the present claims, as discussed in the specification of the present invention.

Specifically, a characteristic of the present invention lies in the combination of a pesticide and the compounds of formula (I) in the claims. This combination results in the enhancement of the pharmacological actions of the pesticide. The present specification discusses in detail the "enhancement" of the action of the pesticide (for example, on page 10, lines 15-27). This enhancement is a synergistic effect not described or suggested in Fujisawa, and therefore represents an unexpected result over the prior art. Claims 1-8 are therefore novel and non-obvious over Fujisawa et al.

New claims 9-14 similarly require a steps of applying pesticide and a step of applying the pharmacological action enhancer of formula (I), and therefore are also novel and non-obvious over Fujisawa et al.

Other matter.

The Examiner states that in claim 2, "pentyl group" occurs in lines 3 and 5. However, Applicants note that line 3 of claim 2 refers to group R¹, and line 5 to group R². Therefore, there is

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no redundancy in this recitation, and Applicants have not amended the claim as suggested by the Examiner.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned Agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Version with markings to show changes made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

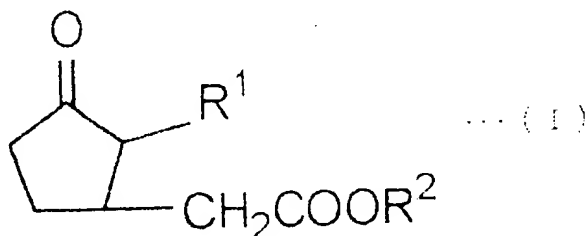
IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-6 as follows:

1. (Amended) A pharmacological action enhancer composition for pesticides, characterized by comprising:

a pesticide; and

one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by the following general formula (I) and salts thereof as an active ingredient



(wherein R¹ is an alkyl group or an alkenyl group, and R² is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group or a hydroxyalkyl group).

2. (Amended) The pharmacological action enhancer composition according to claim 1, wherein R¹ is selected from a pentyl group and a pentenyl group, and R² is selected from a hydrogen atom, a methyl group, an ethyl group, a propyl group, a pentyl group, an allyl group, a butenyl group, a pentenyl group or a butynyl group.

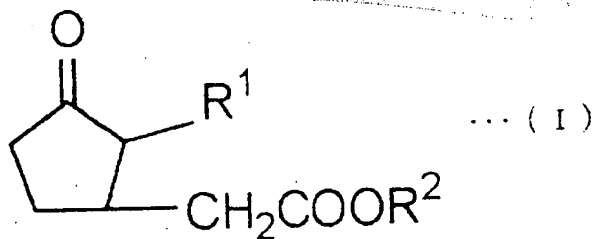
3. (Amended) The pharmacological action enhancer composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the pesticide is selected from a microbicide and a herbicide.

4. (Twice Amended) The pharmacological action enhancer composition according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a solid carrier, a liquid carrier or a controlled release carrier.

5. (Amended) The pharmacological action enhancer composition according to any one of claim 1 or 2, wherein the enhancer is used by spraying, dipping, watering, hydroponic culture, medium mixing, fumigation, or natural diffusion.

6. (Twice Amended) A method for enhancing the pharmacological action of pesticides, comprising the step of applying ~~the~~ a pharmacological action enhancer ~~according to claim 1 or 2~~ and pesticides to a plant,

wherein said pharmacological action enhancer is one or more compounds selected from the compounds represented by the following general formula (I) and salts thereof as an active ingredient



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(wherein R^1 is an alkyl group or an alkenyl group, and R^2 is a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an alkynyl group or a hydroxyalkyl group).